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EXAMINER	
NG, CHRISTINE Y	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2663	

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/661,737	OHSAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christine Ng	2663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 September 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *2-7 and 9-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *4 and 10* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2,3,5,7,9,11 and 12* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *6* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *14 September 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 3 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a) In claim 2 lines 8-9, "to" should be inserted before "a specified communication terminal device".

b) In claim 3 lines 8-9, "to" should be inserted before "a specified communication terminal device".

c) In claim 7 line 6, "to" should be inserted before "a line control unit".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the plurality of calls" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The indicated allowability of claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 11 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to U.S. Patent No. 4,958,343 to Abramovici et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

6. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,958,343 to Abramovici et al.

Referring to claim 2, Abramovici et al disclose a communication line control method comprising:

Providing a plurality of communication terminal devices (Figure 1, terminals 2300-2302 and 2400-2404) each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, and accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network (ISDN network). Refer to Column 6, lines 5-41 and Column 8, lines 36-57.

Providing a centralized management communication terminal device (Figure 1, ISDN switch 1000).

Causing, if said plurality of communication terminal devices are capable of controlling the same call through communication lines corresponding thereto, a line control unit (Figures 1 and 2, memory 3000) of said centralized management communication terminal device to notify of a state of the call to a specified communication terminal device among said plurality of communication terminal devices and to acknowledge (Figure 2, using allocation data 6000) the control by said specified communication terminal device so that only said specified communication terminal device as a control-acknowledged terminal device processes the same call on the basis

of condition data (Figure 2, allocation data 6000). A call arrives at switch 1000 for a directory number DN7 shared by terminal 2301 and 2302 and since terminal 2301 is the lead terminal, switch 1000 allocates a B-channel to terminal 2301 for the call. The allocation information is in allocation data 6000 of switch 1000. Refer to Column 9, lines 25-54 and Column 22, lines 42-63.

Causing a distributed control module (Figure 1, phone circuitry 2311-2319) of the specified communication terminal device to avoid a conflict about the same call between said plurality of communication terminal devices that utilize the communication lines. After allocating a B-channel to terminal 2301 for the call, switch 1000 sends a message to terminal 2301 instructing it to audibly alert through ringing circuit 2311. If a terminal is B-channel blocked and a call arrives at the switch for a directory number shared by the terminal, the terminal silently alerts. Refer to Column 7, lines 21-37 and Column 22, lines 42-63.

Referring to claim 3, refer to the rejection of claim 2. The method also includes:

Notifying said line control unit (Figure 2, memory 3000) of a change in state by an indication given from said distributed control module (Figure 1, phone circuitry 2311-2319) with respect to the call of which said line control unit notifies said distributed control module. For a channel reallocation from terminal 2301 to terminal 2302, switch 1000 sends a message to terminal 2302 instructing terminal 2302 to audibly alert, using ringing circuit 2311, in response to the call. The allocation information is in allocation data 6000 of switch 1000. Refer to Column 23, line 46 to Column 24, line 55.

Changing the condition data about the call control in said line control unit. The b2_alloc field in allocation data 6000 of memory 3000 is changed between "00000100" and "00000010" depending on whether terminal 2301 or terminal 2302 is allocated a B-channel for the call. Refer to Column 23, line 46 to Column 24, line 55.

Changing a control target condition and a notifying target condition with respect to the plurality of calls. By changing the b2_alloc field in allocation data 6000 of memory 3000 between "00000100" and "00000010", either terminal 2301 or terminal 2302 is allocated a B-channel for the call. After changing the field, switch 1000 instructs the corresponding terminal to audibly ring. Refer to Column 23, line 46 to Column 24, line 55.

Referring to claims 5 and 11, Abramovici et al disclose a communication line control method comprising:

Providing a plurality of communication terminal devices (Figure 1, terminals 2300-2302 and 2400-2404) each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network (ISDN network), and capable of controlling an arbitrary call. Refer to Column 6, lines 5-41 and Column 8, lines 36-57.

Setting one arbitrary communication terminal device (Figure 1, ISDN switch 1000) as a centralized management communication terminal device of which a line control unit (Figure 1, switching network 1010) manages in centralization said other communication terminal devices. Refer to Column 21, lines 31-55.

Allocating, when controlling a specified call by said other communication terminal devices a right of control to said other communication terminal devices by said centralized management communication terminal device the basis of preset condition data (Figure 2, allocation data 6000). Refer to the rejection of claim 2.

Causing a distributed control module (Figures 1 and 2, memory 3000) of said arbitrary communication terminal device to execute exclusive control between said other communication terminal devices that utilize the communication by unifying the states about the specified call (Figure 2, allocation data 6000) between said other communication terminal devices without being aware of the communication lines. The allocation data 6000 of memory 3000 is updated according to which terminal is allocated a B-channel. The terminal to which a B-channel is allocated to is not aware of the other communication lines since it is exclusively allocated the channel through switch 1000. Refer to Column 9, lines 25-54. Refer also the rejection of claim 2.

Referring to claim 9, Abramovici et al disclose a communication line control system comprising:

A plurality of communication terminal devices (Figure 1, terminals 2300-2302 and 2400-2404) each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications , and accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network (ISDN network). Refer to Column 6, lines 5-41 and Column 8, lines 36-57.

A centralized management communication terminal device (Figure 1, ISDN switch 1000) including a line control unit (Figures 1 and 2, memory 3000) for

determining, if said plurality of communication terminal devices are capable of controlling the same call through corresponding communication lines, a specified communication terminal device as a control-assigned terminal device among said plurality of communication terminal devices with respect to the same all on the basis of preset condition data (Figure 2, using allocation data 6000) and notifying said specified communication terminal device of a state of the call and acknowledging the control thereof so that only said specified communication terminal device processes the same call. A call arrives at switch 1000 for a directory number DN7 shared by terminal 2301 and 2302 and since terminal 2301 is the lead terminal, switch 1000 allocates a B-channel to terminal 2301 for the call. The allocation information is in allocation data 6000 of switch 1000. Refer to Column 9, lines 25-54 and Column 22, lines 42-63.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,958,343 to Abramovici et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,817 to Yatsu.

Abramovici et al disclose in a communication line control method comprising:

Providing a plurality of communication terminal devices (Figure 1, terminals 2300-2302 and 2400-2404, and ISDN switch 1000) each incorporating communication

functions containing voice communications and data communications, and accommodating a plurality of communication lines connected to a network (ISDN network). Refer to Column 6, lines 5-41 and Column 8, lines 36-57.

Notifying, if there occurs a change in state of one arbitrary communication terminal device (Figure 1, terminal 2301), of this state to a line control unit (Figures 1 and 2, memory 3000) of the other communication terminal device (Figure 1, ISDN switch 1000) from an interface (Figure 1, interface on terminal 2301 to ISDN switch 1000) of the one arbitrary communication terminal device. Terminals 2301 and 2302 share the same directory number DN7. If terminal 2301 wants to reanswer a phone call held by terminal 2302, it sends a message to switch 1000 requesting the phone call. Switch 1000 then performs the reallocation by changing bit string b2_alloc in allocation data 6000 of memory 3000 from "00000100" to "00000010". Refer to Column 24, lines 23-55.

Updating a condition table (Figure 2, allocation data 6000) in the line control unit of the other communication terminal devices. Switch 1000 performs the reallocation by changing bit string b2_alloc in allocation data 6000 of memory 3000 from "00000100" to "00000010". Refer to Column 24, lines 23-55.

Executing the line control related to the communication terminal device exhibiting the change in state. After changing the allocation data 6000, switch 100 enables the terminal 2301 to retrieve the held phone call. Refer to Column 24, lines 23-55.

Abramovici et al do not disclose that the one arbitrary communication terminal device has a function of operating with an independent power supply, the independent

power supply for the interface is independent from a line control unit of said one arbitrary communication terminal device.

Yatsu discloses in Figure 1 a digital telephone 100 that is connected to an ISDN network 20 through a telephone exchange unit 10, with the telephone exchange unit 10 serving as an interface between telephone 100 and ISDN network 20. The telephone exchange unit 10 includes a power supply unit 14, which supplies power to each unit. The digital telephone 100 also receives power from an A.C. source as shown in the figure. So, the digital telephone has an interface which operates with an independent power supply (14) and the independent power supply (14) for the interface is independent from the power supply (A.C. power source) of the of the digital telephone. Refer to Column 4, line 54 to Column 5, line 18. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include that the one arbitrary communication terminal device has a function of operating with an independent power supply, the independent power supply for the interface is independent from a line control unit of said one arbitrary communication terminal device. One would be motivated to do so since the interface from the telephone to the ISDN operates from a different power source than the rest of the telephone.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 4 and 10 are allowed.

10. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Ng whose telephone number is (571) 272-3124. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C. Ng CN
November 30, 2005

RICKY Q. NGO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER